

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Action/Consent Item:**

Appointments to the State Textbook Commission

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.405 (2)

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendations for appointments to the State Textbook Commission?

#### **Background/History:**

***Existing Policy.*** In accordance with KRS 156.405(2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointments of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the commonwealth--two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

John W. Hardy, teacher, Grant County High School (Grant County)  
David McFadden, teacher, North Laurel High School (Laurel County)  
Catherine R. Fernandez, district-wide teacher (Henderson County)  
Donna Lovell, administrator, Berea Independent Schools (Madison County)  
Dr. Deneia Thomas, parent/lay citizen (Fayette County)  
Barbara M. Waltrip, teacher, Audubon Elementary (Daviess County)  
Cherissa Eden, parent/lay citizen (Shelby County)  
Dr. Cynthia Houston, higher education, Western Kentucky University (Warren County)  
Vasco Perry, teacher (Hardin County)  
Mark Thomas, administrator (Nelson County)

According to KRS 156.405(2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. As of June 2012, the terms of Cherissa L. Eden, Donna R. Lovell, Barbara M. Waltrip and Deneia Thomas will end, creating four vacancies on the Commission. Ms. Lovell and Ms. Waltrip have each served one term and are willing to serve a second term. Ms. Eden completed a term vacated by a previous Commission member and is willing to serve a second term. Dr. Thomas has served one term but does not wish to be reappointed for a second term.

If these members are approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of four (4) males and five (5) females, will be composed of one (1) African-American and eight (8) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in statute, except for the appointment of a second lay citizen. Applicants for the lay citizen are currently being sought.

#### **Staff Recommendation and Rationale:**

Staff proposes that the board approve the re-appointments of the following persons to the State Textbook Commission. The applicants are fully qualified to be members of the Commission.

Re-appoint Cherissa L. Eden. Mrs. Eden is a parent of two children in the public schools in Shelby County. Her oldest child attends West Middle School and her youngest attends Simpsonville Elementary School. Mrs. Eden has past experience teaching fifth grade band and orchestra in Shelby County. She believes textbooks are an important tool in every classroom and can offer a guide for instructors. She further believes that quality instructional materials compliment local school curriculum maps and enhance units of study that reinforce state standards and assessments. Mrs. Eden believes that textbooks should align with common core standards and be consistent with the program of studies.

Re-appoint Donna R. Lovell. Ms. Lovell is the DPP/Director of District-Wide Services in Berea. Ms. Lovell has been a district level administrator for 13 years. Ms. Lovell also taught for 14 years. Ms. Lovell believes textbooks and instructional materials are resources for both teachers and students and should enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom. She stated in her application that textbooks and other instructional materials are resources for units of study and should be aligned to state and national standards.

Re-appoint Barbara M. Waltrip. Ms. Waltrip is a teacher from Daviess County. Ms. Waltrip has been teaching for 15 years. She has taught third and fourth grades as well as served as the Title I teacher at Audubon Elementary School. Ms. Waltrip has served on many different cadre teams for her district. These include technology, social studies, science, writing cluster leader, and reading. She believes textbooks are a resource and supplement for instruction and they should be aligned with national, state, and local standards.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

This process ensures that teachers and students have access to the most current instructional resources in a variety of formats and learning levels.

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

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